

## Fife Schools Chess Championships 2008

The 2008 Fife Schools Chess Championship took place recently at Glenwood High School, Glenrothes.

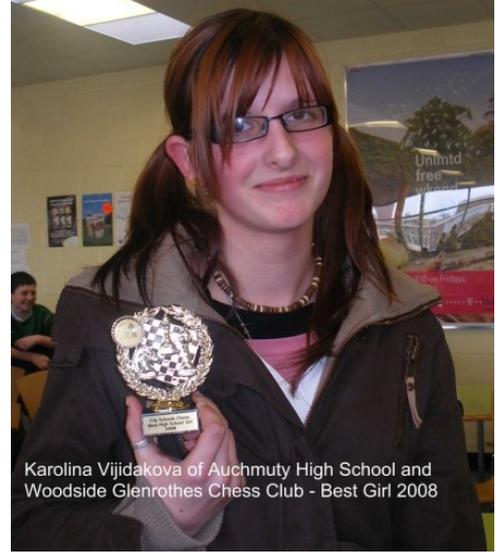
On the face of it, things went as expected in the high school section, with the fourth round confrontation between Liam Ingram and reigning champion, Francis Batchelor (both Bell Baxter) turning out to be the key match. Liam, with a degree of luck, defeated Francis to regain the Roger Stewart Cup, he had lost last year.

Things, though, were far more complicated in reality! Both players came close to losing their round three games with both Francis and Liam lucky, with Liam in particular having to fight back after losing a queen.



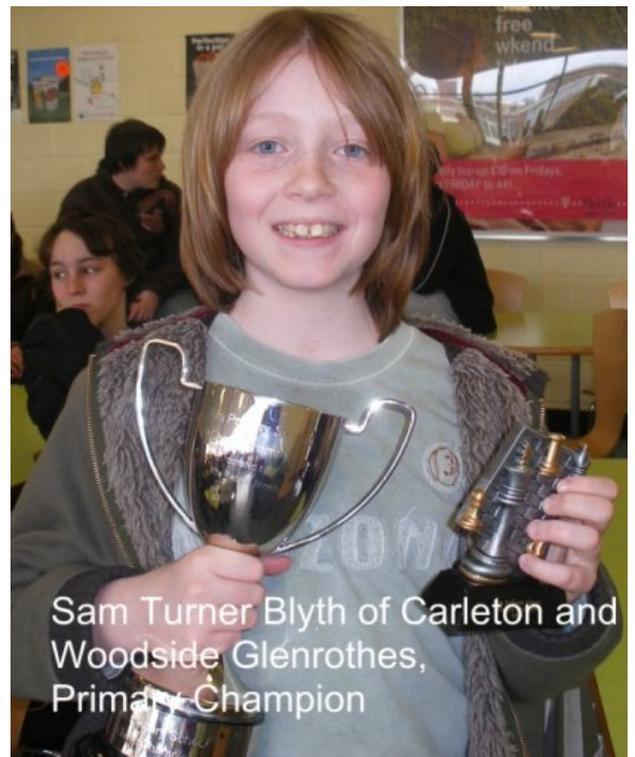
Further proof that the general standard in the high school section was high comes from the fact that, in the final round, Liam was actually held to a draw by Dave Shenton of St Columba's, who put in a fine performance to finish second.

Karolina Vijidakova of Auchmuty High and Woodside Glenrothes Chess club took best girl, while Renat Chakirov of Kirkcaldy won the cash prize for the best 'giant-killing' performance, defeating an opponent graded 700 points higher!



Karolina Vijidakova of Auchmuty High School and Woodside Glenrothes Chess Club - Best Girl 2008

In the **primary section**, Sam Turner Blyth, starting as strong favourite, put in a solid 5/5 performance to win the Fife Retired Miners Cup, recording his third consecutive victory in the process.



Sam Turner Blyth of Carleton and Woodside Glenrothes, Primary Champion



John Kane  
St Paul's  
Primary 5 and under  
Champion

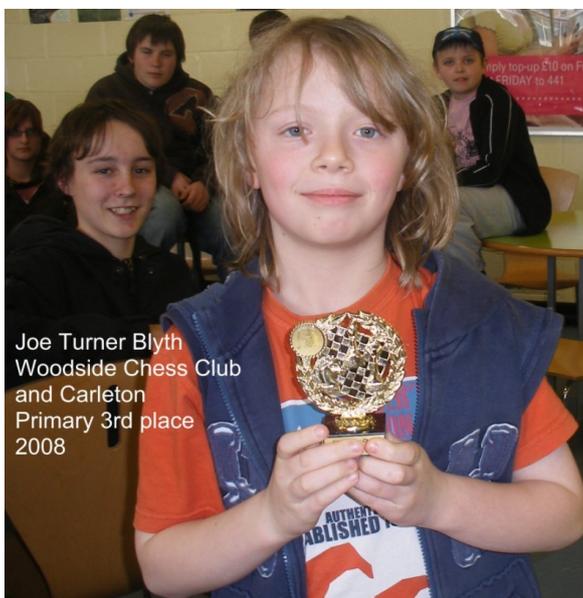
Perhaps the most impressive performance came from Primary 5 and under champion, John Kane of St Pauls, who claimed the Out of School Hours Learning Cup. John has been playing chess only for a short while and he saw off far more experienced opposition to take victory in his first ever tournament!

Next year will see new winners of both championships, with Sam moving up to high school and Francis and Liam both heading off to university.

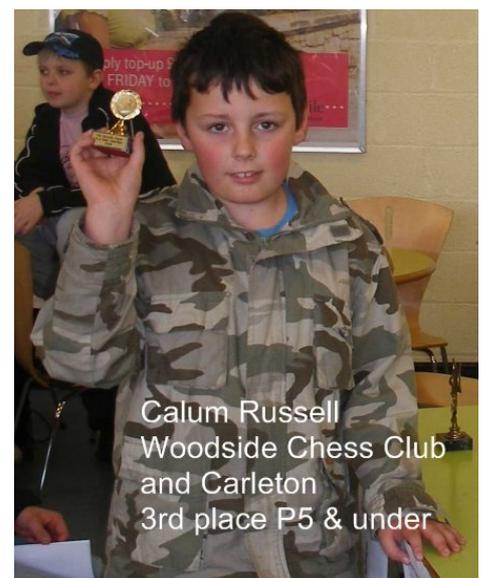


Back row l to r (high school): David Shenton (St. Columbas) 2nd; Francis Batchelor 3rd; Liam Ingram 1st; Oliver Twentyman grading prize (all Bell Baxter); Karolina Vijiđakova (Auchmuty) best girl. Front row l to r (primary) John Kane (St Paul's) P5&under 1st; Sam Turner Blyth (Carleton) 1st; Daniel Drew (Balmullo) 2nd; Joe Turner Blyth (Carleton) 3rd; Calum Russell (Carleton) 3rd P5&under; Front row: Ross Hatch (St Paul's) P5&under 2nd.

Thanks to all those who helped out on the day, in particular to Jill Darroch of Auchmuty High.



Joe Turner Blyth  
Woodside Chess Club  
and Carleton  
Primary 3rd place  
2008



Calum Russell  
Woodside Chess Club  
and Carleton  
3rd place P5 & under

Report by Stuart Blyth